

Ghost Trackers Newsletter



Volume 6

Number 2

MR

June 1987

OFFICIAL PARANORMAL PUBLICATION
OF THE
GHOST RESEARCH SOCIETY

• Editor's page:

• I would like to first direct your attention to the cover of this issue of your newsletter. You will notice some strange lights which were photographed by James Crocker at Marfa, Texas. For those wishing to obtain your personal copy of this photograph in full color in either 4x5 or 8x10 format, see the classified section for further details. A must for any serious photo collection! Be sure to mention the GRS when ordering!

I would like to thank the following members and non-members for submitting unusual photographs for analysis: Sarah Estep, President of AA-EVP (American Association for Electronic Voice Phenomena), Chris Williams, Valerie Tjaden, James Crocker and Shinichiro Namiki. Also those who sent articles, books and/or clippings: Lori Mellott, Lewis Harrison, Tom Perrott, Tom Buchanan and Jay Halloran. A special thanks goes out to Lori Mellott for her cassette tape of paranormal voices and follow-up material on the Calvert County Haunting and sample issue of The Quarterly Newsletter of The Spirits of St. Mary's. We do sincerely appreciate all this vital input and hope to soon use all this new material in future issues!

• Congratulations go out to Syd Sue Ellis for her recent marriage and we all wish her the best of luck and happiness! Our condolences go out to the friends and families of three well known psychics whom passed away in the early part of this year. Prayers go out to: Rev. Del Larkin, Phyllis Stuts and Joanne Monzel! We all sincerely hope and pray that their souls find true peace and happiness in the after-life!

It is with great pleasure that we have added two regular columnists to the board of the GRS and they will continue to supply us with interesting stories, book reviews and psychic encounters. Tom Perrott, President of the Internationally known Ghost Club, will write his column, Psychic Britain and W. Ritchie Benedict will author a regular feature entitled, The Haunted Bookshop. We are also in the process of negotiating with several others including Maurice Schwalm, whose article appears in this issue! We hope these new additions will enhance the quality of this publication and all columnists welcome inquiries and letters from readers!

In the near future, we will be able to computer enhance psychic photographs and this will greatly aid us in analysis of such pictures!

GHOST RESEARCH SOCIETY

Since the last newsletter, we have added 8 new members and have received renewals from 15 old members. Remember that your benefits that you receive from your membership card, (discounts on new & used books, discounts to GRS sponsored lectures and workshops, etc.), are only good on those memberships which are currently active. Don't let your membership lapse! Renew today!! In addition to regular memberships, we also offer a sustaining member for \$15.00 which includes the opportunity of helping with ghost research and on-the-spot investigations, a contributing membership which, in addition to the above, also includes a free newspaper clipping service on an irregular basis on the subject of parapsychology in your particular state or country and a Patron membership which also includes your insertion as a regional director with full benefits. Lifetime memberships are available for \$250.00 and special discounts apply to 2 and 3 year memberships. Inquire further for additional details!

The new International Directory for Psychic Sciences and Chicago Psychic Directory are both now available for immediate shipment. Each costs only \$7.00 a piece and those who missed last year's issues need not worry. We still have available back issues of both directories which are now clearance priced. Normally \$6.75 and \$5.75, both directories are now priced for \$8.00 when purchased together or \$4.50 each when bought separately! Order these now while supplies last to complete your library!

The newsletter of the quarter is The Gate, a Fortean orientated publication dealing with Bigfoot, UFO's, phantom animals, ghosts and other unusual phenomena. Four issues for \$4.00 (\$8.00 overseas): The Gate, PO Box 43518, Richmond Heights, Oh., 44143.

We are also beginning a contest for a Motto for the GRS, and prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. 1st place - one year's free membership to the GTN, 2nd place - your choice of either of the new directories and 3rd place - a bumper sticker. The motto can be a catchy phrase or anything short and interesting (10 words or less) which depicts the purpose and/or functions of the GRS. Even a funny or unusual anecdote will be accepted. Send a postcard with your motto to GRS and the decision of the judges will be final and winners announced in the October edition. Multiple entries are fine but only one winner per family will be awarded! Send in your entries early and the deadline is September 15, 1987.

PSYCHIC BRITAIN

by

Tom Perrott

It was with very great pleasure that I accepted the invitation from my friend and your President, Dale Kaczmarek, to contribute a regular feature on the British psychic scene to the Ghost Trackers Newsletter.

It would therefore be appropriate for me, I think, to indicate the variety of subjects that I hope to discuss on future occasions.

Wearing my "two hats" of my life memberships of the Folklore Society and of the Society for Psychical Research, I would hope on the one hand to tell you about some of the legends relating to some of our 10,000 haunted sites, and on the other hand to discuss some of the cases that might be in the process of being currently investigated. In addition I hope to be able to interview some of the leading personalities in our psychic world, or owners of some establishments that are still believed to be haunted, and also to review certain recent publications on hauntings and other psychic matters which are worth reading.

In order to ensure the success of this regular feature, it is vital that I should receive letters from you, my gentle readers, as a regular feedback, which would indicate to me the subjects that are of the most interest to you.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, should you so desire. Tell me of your experiences and your queries and all of you may rest assured that you will eventually receive a reply in the proverbial fullness of time.

I am often asked by my many American friends to recommend to them dealers in books, who would be in a position to supply them with any books of a psychic nature, which have been published in Great Britain over a period of years.

I would suggest that for the purpose of obtaining recent or new publications, they should contact the firm of Specialist Knowledge Services of 20, Paul Street, Frome, Somerset, BA11 1DX. The owner of this firm is Dr. Hugh Pincott, one of the foremost parapsychologists and psychical researchers in the country. A former Hon. Secretary of the Society for Psychical Research, he is now General Secretary of ASSAP (Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena).

In cases where out-of-print or secondhand volumes are involved, the firm of Magis Books, 3 Fillace Park, Horrabridge, Yelverton, Devon, PL20 7TB, is to be highly recommended, where the present Proprietor Tom Clarke

will give all customers and enquirers the benefits of his expertise and service.

For many years books have been written concerning ghostly happenings in practically all parts of the British Isles and I have copies of many of them in my private collection. If any of my readers by virtue of their ancestry or possibly just a predilection for reading about any of these hauntings, would like further details of any specific areas, I would be pleased to give them the necessary advice.

Tom Perrott can be reached at the following address:

Tom Perrott

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HAUNTED PUBS OF ENGLAND

by

Tom Perrott

Many of you who have already visited the United Kingdom, have doubtless come into contact with and possibly patronized that unique English institution, the Public-house.

Pubs are not merely places where dipsomaniacs can demonstrate their imbibing skills to one another, because in many areas, especially in the big cities, or even in the remote country areas, pubs are regarded as centres of community and social life. Here the affairs of the day, be they sporting, international, or political, may be discussed in an atmosphere of complete conviviality and all-embracing bonhomie.

Many of these establishments date back to the Middle Ages, but in some cases, like the mythical phoenix, newer buildings complete with chromium fittings and plastic beams have arisen on the same sites from the ashes of their distinguished predecessors.

Numbers of these pubs appear to possess their own resident apparitions and poltergeists. In some instances these shadowy figures are figments of a landlord's vivid imagination in an attempt to increase his clientele, by drawing attention to his inexplicable experiences, which cannot be easily explained in rational terms. It is my intention in this article to recount some happenings of this nature.

Some years ago when extensive alterations were being carried out at the Bugle Hotel, Newport, Isle of Wight, the then licensee Mr. Richard Wilmot appeared to have disturbed something in this 350 year old inn, in particular in the ultra-modern kitchen, which had been converted from the former stables. Once when the chef Mr. Tony Bell was alone in the kitchen one night, he claimed to have felt something brush past him. He thought at first that it was the catering manager Mr. W. Herbert, but looking round he found nobody there. He also saw a plate of butter move across the table. On another occasion Mr. Herbert, the chef, and a waiter were working in the kitchen at midnight, when the waiter noticed that a long plunger type of plug was at the top end of the kitchen in a sink full of water. He removed and placed it about six feet away. A few minutes later he heard a noise and found the plug in its original position in the sink outlet.

Many of these tame apparitions are purely benevolent and an example of this kind of ghost may be found at the Wishing Tree, a pub in the town of St. Leonards, Sussex. The licensees, Mr. and Mrs. John Northwood, noticed strange things, shortly after taking over. Their dog started screaming and howling for days on end. Adverse reactions from domestic pets can often give a clue to the fact that all is not well in a house. The Northwood's small son could often be heard laughing in a certain box-room. One day a young woman walked into the pub and asked John Northwood, "How are you getting on with the ghost!" She was the daughter of a previous landlord, a Major Lewis, and she explained how her young brother used to burst out laughing in the same room. Two old ladies once owned the Wishing Tree and it was believed that one of them might have been the haunter. A couple driving past the inn early one morning had to brake sharply to avoid running down a woman in period dress who was pushing a pram. When they got out of the car, there was nothing to be seen. On more than one occasion a woman customer has been seen to emerge from the ladies' toilet in a state of deshabille and extreme nervousness.

Some months ago I was interviewed for Television in the King's Arms, a pub in South East London, where the manager, Mr. Terry Payne, told me some interesting facts about the building, although nothing untoward happened there during my visit. The present inn was built on the site of an older building, which had been destroyed by bombs during World War II. The bombing resulted in the deaths of eleven persons including the then Manageress. Mr. Payne said that the ghost of an elderly woman had been seen at times, presumably the manageress, strange footsteps had been heard, glasses had been inexplicably smashed, his two dogs always refused to go down into the wine-cellar and on more than one occasion, voices had been heard singing the choruses of songs popular during the War years.

Such then is some of the stuff of which pub ghosts appear to be made. On a dark night when the wind is howling and the moon is casting all sorts of baleful shadows, in some of these wonderful old pubs, which in some cases have raised the hopes and dispelled the fears of many who have sought sustenance under their roofs, it is not difficult to imagine strong emotions being generated in them and perhaps murmurs of some of these happenings remain with us to the present day.

Occult Studies

INVESTIGATION OF A POSSIBLE TRANSITORY HAUNTING

Maurice Schwalm 1983

The Kansas City Star carries a regular column known as, "A Postcard from Old Kansas City." On July 8, 1983, that column featured a postcard photograph of the Alexander Majors' home at 8140 State Line. This was the home of the founder of the Pony Express and Kansas City's first millionaire. It is a two-story colonial house that once stood on 320 acres. It has nine rooms, each 17' by 17' with its own fireplace. From here, wagon trains were outfitted to travel the Santa Fe Trail. The photograph shows an unidentified group in front of the house in the 1880's. The Occult Studies Group decided it would be interesting to investigate the history of the locale and check for present paranormal activity, even though there is no tradition of the home being, in any sense, haunted.

An abundance of historical material was found. It appears that not only was Majors a national figure, but he had a granddaughter who devoted her life to preservation of his memory and house. She even died on the premises.

The Group found that in addition to the house bearing an historical plaque, there is also a plaque next to his grave marker in Kansas City's Union Cemetery. That plaque includes a map of the Pony Express route from St. Joseph, Missouri to Sacramento, California. It was placed in honor of the Centennial of the Pony Express in 1960. But for the development of the city, his transportation firm of Russell, Majors and Waddell was even more important as it established Kansas City as a transportation hub. When the "iron horse" came, it went west on trails and storage capabilities established by Majors.

Majors' house, built in 1856, hasn't fared as well as his reputation. Although it is presently slated for restoration, it was in a state of total disrepair for decades. It will cost \$100,000 just to make it structurally sound. Its existence depends solely on the efforts of his granddaughter, Louisa P. Johnston, who purchased the home from A. Louis Ruhl in about 1931. It was being used as a schoolhouse pending demolition.

Louisa devoted the rest of her life to fighting off efforts to rezone the property and to keep it structurally intact while negotiating with various historical societies for its restoration as a period home and study center surrounded by a passive park which would reflect the activities of 4,000 men, 3,500 wagons, and 40,000

oxen deployed from there. She died there while living in a more caretaker's cottage on the premises at the age of 89. Her estate had no assets but the debt-ridden home.

Some activity was found. One psychic, who admittedly knew something of the history, claims to see Louisa there. He sees her as a frail, smiling figure in a long dress, ready for a lawn party--perhaps viewing him as a potential contributor. But another psychic, Nita Teske, was taken there with no information. Around the Majors' home, she got optimistic feelings of a permanently important transportation hub. Around the cottage where Louisa died, she felt a transitory presence that was obsessed with unfair and inadequate gifts of money.

Photographically, there was a .75 cm long unidentifiable white-robed form in the window just to the left of the front door. It is reflected as if it were a figure on the lawn in front of a tree. It was obtained on Polaroid type 667 film with settings of f16 at 1/30 taken at 9:50 a.m. on July 24, 1983, a sunny day, shooting east towards the house at approximately the angle of the postcard from old Kansas City.

Maurice F. Schwalm
3424 Genessee St.
Kansas City, Mo. 64111



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WARNING:

Due to the fact that there are so many speakers on esoteric knowledge, energy levels are so high we have received complaints that attendees couldn't sleep for weeks....

FAMILY GHOSTS

by
Patty

I have a couple of ghost stories for you. My parents, brothers and I lived in a house in Oak Park, Illinois for about 20 years. We moved there in 1965, and moved out in August 1984. The house is a small bungalow type with a full basement, and was built approximately in the early 1930's. It has long been my mother's habit to read in bed for awhile before going to sleep at night.

She would often hear footsteps coming up the basement steps (only late at night). Fearing it might be an intruder, she would check the steps and the whole basement area. She could find nothing amiss. She said this happened often. The basement stairs were opposite her bedroom. She accepted this occurrence as routine since it remained the same until one night - this happened in about 1952 - as she sat in bed, reading. She heard the footsteps and felt a presence in the room. She felt a slight movement of a small area at the foot of the bed, as if someone sat down there. Then she saw the mattress sink down a bit in that area, again as if someone had sat down.

In the same general time, there was something else inexplicable going on in other parts of the house. The dining room was next to the basement stairs and my father would often do paperwork on the dining room table. One day he called me from another room to tell me of the strange laughter he heard next to him. There was no TV on or other noise it could have been at the time.

Next door to us lived a neighbor who had lived there long before we arrived in the neighborhood. She said there had been a woman who had lived in our house (2 owners back) who was extremely unhappy and a severe alcoholic.

A couple of years ago at this time of year, my mother had become gravely ill and she now says that about a day before we had to rush her to the hospital, she was lying in bed and distinctly heard the voice of her mother (who has been dead since 1967). The voice came from next to her bed and told her not to be afraid. As I say, the day after this, we rushed my mom to the hospital. The doctors worked hard for 36 hours to save her life. They called us early in the morning and asked us to come, expecting her to die.

She lived on, and that evening I had been crying alot at home but had stopped. I was in my room, trying to calm down, and I very distinctly heard a voice whisper my name. That was all I heard. Perhaps sick or upset people have their minds play tricks upon them, but... Maybe not...

This was followed up by another spooky sort of incident a few days later. The doctors had decided to do brain surgery on my mom. They said it had to be done right away or she would surely die. She was going deeper and deeper into a coma. As I kept a vigil by her bed, before any further medication was given to her, she said "don't be afraid anymore" twice in a row. I was spooked by this, because to my understanding, people in comas do not speak. She has no recollection of this. And I didn't know, until later, when all this was over, that my mother had heard her own mother's voice just before entering the hospital. When I found out that the words were the same, I really felt spooked.

Editor's note: These kind of visitation apparitions and psychic encounters are very commonly experienced but are seldom related because of the fear of ridicule or embarrassment. However we, at the GRS, encourage more to submit such articles either for publication or just for the sheer desire to relate such incidents. If you would like to see your personal encounters appear in print, please specify so in your letter and if you wish for your name to appear or not.

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GHOST HUNTING IN SANTA BARBARA

BY

Richard Senate

One cold, crisp October night we found ourselves on our way to Santa Barbara. Two elderly ladies had called asking for help in ridding their house of a ghost that they described as "horrifying".

We arrived at the house at about 10:00 p.m. It was in the nice, older section of Santa Barbara. Inside the home was tastefully and gracefully furnished with antiques and art. The ladies introduced themselves as Nell and Betty. Nell was the owner of the house and Betty, her niece, lived with her.

We asked the ladies if we could wander through the house to see and feel the impressions about us. The second room we came to, Nell's bedroom, immediately caught our attention. My gaze focused on the chair in the corner, and as I walked toward it, I felt the hair on the back of my head stand on end. I stood next to the chair and suddenly felt my left arm and side become very cold. Nadean and Richard noticed the change in temperature and checked the windows for drafts. By the chair we felt the cold spot move between us and settle by Nadean. The cold area seemed to be about three feet tall by two feet wide. All of a sudden Nadean announced, "It's holding my hand." And, as we watched, the cold spot pulled her across the room. Nadean's impression was that it was a young Oriental boy, about five years old and friendly. Indeed, throughout our visit, he stayed right by Nadean's side.

The tour of the rest of the house failed to turn up anything interesting, so we returned to the living room to listen to the ladies' story. Betty, the younger of the two, related the following tale.

"On the night of December 6, 1980, I was suddenly awakened from a sound sleep. I looked up and saw a woman standing in my bedroom doorway. She was slender, wearing black bedroom slippers, pink chiffon nightgown, and ruffled bed cap. Her hair was gray and she seemed to be about seventy-five years of age. Her eyes were bright blue and she stared, but didn't blink. As I watched, she groped her way along my closet door. I said, 'Is that you, Nell?' Then she left, closing the door exactly as it had been."

From that night on the house seemed to be the center of one type of disturbance or another. Betty went on to relate how one night the figurines on the mantle were suddenly in different positions. She was very adamant that it wasn't she who moved them because, "It's Nell's house and I'm very careful not to touch her things."

Nell too had seen and heard things not easily explained. One day she looked up and saw a group of four girls, Oriental in appearance, standing in the garden. As she started to walk toward them, they vanished. At night Nell had also heard and seen a young boy running up and down the hall waving a piece of paper.

As we listened to the ladies talk, we could tell that all these happenings had them truly frightened. Our main objective became to relieve this fear and reassure them. Nadean told the ladies that when she left she would take the little boy with her. Whenever they saw or heard something frightening they were to repeat, "Go to the light, go to the light." Richard and Nadean assured them that nothing in the house could harm them. The ladies listened intently to what was told them and agreed to do what was suggested. They thanked us all and promised to keep in touch. Once in the front yard, Nadean announced that the little boy had left.

Was this house truly haunted? The ladies believed it to be and we did find the cold spot believed to be a little boy. But, what of the woman in the bedroom, the Oriental girls, and the moving objects on the mantle? These we weren't able to decide about; were they true hauntings or imagination?

Editors note: We have been unable to locate Mr. Richard Senate in recent months due to a forwarding address that has expired. Last known address was: 46 N. Santa Rosa Freeway, Ventura, Ca. 93001. If any of our California members can help in locating him, it would be greatly appreciated!

Additional note: The above article mentions telling spirits to go to the light. This is not recommended nor is it always helpful for many spirits see us as light and therefore you could actually be telling them to stay! Contact a professional clairvoyant when in doubt of what to do with a pesky ghost!

THE HAUNTED BOOKSHOP

Occult Boom Hits Britain - January 14th, 1984.

London (Reuters News Agency) - Britain is experiencing its biggest occult explosion in a century, as hordes of people turn to witchcraft, magic rituals and astrology in apparent conjunction with rising concern over social problems. In the last five years, hundreds of Britons have signed up for correspondence courses in spells. Astrologers report a 10-fold increase in clients. Occult shop owners say sales of herbs, pyramids and crystal balls have been booming. "It is the biggest occult explosion in Britain since the 1880s", said Marian Green, a writer on the occult

A recent Aquarian Festival brought together 5,000 people, and readership of Prediction magazine has reached about 20,000 said Green. All the major current British occult festivals and publications sprang up in the last six years, she added. Scholars of the occult agree that this latest boom, which had its roots in the 1960s hippie movement, has taken off as concern over social problems grows. "Interest in magic grew out of the economic expansion of the 1960s but it has also provided solace in the economic recession of the 1980s", says Tanya Luhrmann, a Harvard-trained anthropologist doing a study on the occult at Cambridge University.

Kevin Grove, the founder of the Camden Town Psychic Centre in the lively north London district known as Camden Town says some people are using magical spells and other occult rituals in an effort to exert power and influence over the world around them. He says many of the clients visiting the centre's 22 astrologists, futurologists and palm and tarot card readers are seeking jobs and cheap housing, stock exchange predictions and an end to the buildup of nuclear weapons. Two similar centres were formed in the last two years, one in Baker Street, legendary home of Sherlock Holmes, and one near Trafalgar Square. Luhrmann says one of the fastest growing areas of the occult is witchcraft. She estimates that the number of "initiated" has more than doubled from 10 years ago, with perhaps several thousand practising witchcraft. She said that even before 1951, when Britain lifted a legal ban against witchcraft, the secret cults attracted many ordinary people who did not seem to be maladjusted in their jobs or personal lives. Several "witches" interviewed in London agree that for many of their ilk witchcraft was a direct spin-off from the feminist movement, with many women being drawn by its lack of hierarchy

and by matriarchal worship of a pagan earth mother. "Witchcraft is an intrinsically female thing", said one asked not to be identified. "Witches have traditionally been women and matriarchy is all part of women trying to regain their power."

GHOSTBUSTER STAR BELIEVES IN GHOSTS - July 6th, 1984.

NEW YORK (CANADIAN PRESS) - In an article by columnist Gene Telpner, Dan Aykroyd, the Ottawa-born comedian who is the star of the 1984 smash hit movie "Ghostbusters", revealed that he is a believer in psychic matters. Aykroyd is an active member of the American Society for Psychic Research which supports the concept that there can be visitations after death. He puts his money where his beliefs are and supports the society with generous donations. He is convinced that there is a possibility that he could communicate with late John Belushi, his great friend and costar in two films, who died of a drug overdose.

"I still have dreams about John Belushi", he says. "I believe the energy flow of a human being still exists on one level or another after his death. I also believe we are not the only dimension in this universe.

"I think if I spent time alone near John's grave, there might be a visitation. I know that's dangerous stuff. But my feeling about John Belushi is that I want him to have peace and rest. I don't want to open the door."

The hit movie has spawned a number of fan clubs. In Pittsburgh, Jim Garvey and Mark Lister secured the right to form one for \$10,000 - from Columbia Pictures Industries, Inc. The pair have renamed their shop Ghostbusters and they market for \$8.95 a kit that certifies a member as a Ghostbuster. They send "job applications" to those who express interest so they can become Ghostbusters - or ersatz ghost removers. An applicant answers a short quiz demonstrating he or she is not afraid of ghosts, is alive, breathing, willing to save the world at a moment's notice and sleeps above the covers. So far there are an estimated 25,000 members.

The Haunted Bookshop will be a regular column by W. Ritchie Benedict. Watch for his column in each and every issue of this publication. You can write to him at: 12-401 Grier Ave., NE, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2K 3T8.

READER'S OPINION POLL

Betty Stone of Carmel, California writes, "I feel you're doing a splendid job in compiling and presenting interesting material. Since you're obviously investing a great deal of your time, money and effort as it is, I find some of the letters in the 'Reader's Opinion Poll' quite amusing; i.e. 'drop the newsletter and go with video tapes instead, being sure to keep them as professional as possible.' Wonder if the person who wrote that would be willing to pay enough for those videos to even cover the cost of your travel expenses, 'hiring someone with experience in filming', etc., etc., etc."

Andrew R. Jarett of Berwyn, Illinois comments, "I have several comments and suggestions. 1) Invest in a word processor/printer. I realize you have limited resources, but for around \$600-\$700 you can get a Commodore 64, disk drive, and letter quality printer, that should last for years. Plus you can run your mailing lists, etc. If you get a used system, you can save money. 2) I recognize the method of reproduction is cheap. Have you considered running photos on a single page, but using offset, or something that gives better reproduction? Some photocopy machines do an excellent job. 3) Many of the letters are interesting, but poorly documented. As such they could easily pass for campfire tales. I enjoy reading them, but can only assign little credibility to them. I would like to see at least one major article an issue. Lately the magazine has had a lot of 'filler'. 4) Please do not construe my comments as negative, as I applaud your efforts to explore and make known, this area of psychic phenomenon. I do think you have to 'buckle down' and accept the fact that without writing down and sharing your experiences you will not get the support you need. I detect from your writings that you see the articles as a chore, rather than an opportunity to gain support for your work. Keep up the good work!"

Douglas Tussing of Toledo, Ohio says, "Your articles are straight foreward. Your newsletter is unique in covering a subject concerning ghosts. I am more interested in content than style. I just wish your newsletter was thicker."

UPCOMING LECTURES

The 24th Annual National UFO Conference - "UFOs Over America: 40 Years And Counting". Burbank, California Hilton Hotel - June 12-14th, 1987.

Featured speakers include: Stanton T. Friedman, James Moseley, Dr. Richard Neal, MD., Dale Kaczmarek, Kal K. Korff, Brad Steiger, Ann Druffel, Jim Speicer, William L. Moore, Timothy Good, Vicki Cooper, Tracy Torme, Hal Starr. Three day conference passes @ \$50.00/person which includes admission to all conference events and Friday Evening Cocktail Party & Sunday Banquet. To make your reservations at the Hilton call: In California (800)643-7400 and Outside California (800)469-3576.

Additional information from: W.L. Moore Publications, 4219 W. Olive Ave., Suite #247, Burbank, Ca., 91505. (818)506-8365 (9AM-5PM, Please!)

American Association Electronic Voice Phenomena presents "Pathways To Consciousness". August 7-9, 1987 at the Holiday Inn-Inner Harbor, Baltimore, Maryland. Featured speakers include: Carol Barron, Jerry Bennett, Martin Ebon, Sarah Estep, Lynn Gardner, Joseph Jochmans, Dale Kaczmarek, Clara Laughlin, Shala Mattingly, Dan McKee, Linda Roers and Tom Roers. Many workshops to choose from including two field trip/workshops which will try to tape voices and photograph entities at the Edgar Allan Poe House and grave at Westminster Cemetery and Catacombs.

Additional information from: AA-EVP, c/o Sarah Estep, 726 Dill Rd., Severna Park, Md., 21146 (301)647-8742.

Annual Fortfest Conference to be held at the Tyson West Park Hotel in Tyson Corners, Virginia on October 10-11, 1987. Exact details and speakers are currently being formulated. Accepted speakers include: John Keel, Dale Kaczmarek, James Thiesen. Many others being contacted and scheduled, including a Sunday haunted bustour of Washington D.C.

For additional information: INFO, PO Box 367, Arlington, Va., 22210-0367.

The Mind Center presents "The Evidence for Spirit Photography" by Dale Kaczmarek, President GRS on Thursday evening July 16, 1987. A two-hour slide presentation showing true photos of ghosts!

For additional information: Ruth Berger, The Mind Center, 7925 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie, Il., 60077. (312)676-4900.

BOOK REVIEWS

On The Track Of The Poltergeist by D. Scott Rogo. (Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, NJ. 07632, 1986, 206 pages, \$12.95)

The poltergeist (German for "noisy ghost") is one of history's enduring mysteries, dating back centuries - through Dr. Johnson and the Cock Lane Ghost, to John Wesley and undoubtedly to Medieval and Roman periods. In this century, we have made a little progress towards the understanding of the mystery, but there is still much to learn. For example, we now know that many of these cases involve psychokinetic effects caused unconsciously by a disturbed adolescent in the household, but there are enough exceptions to this rule to cause suspicions that there may be other factors involved as well.

In this new book by D. Scott Rogo, a veteran investigator and a consulting editor for Fate magazine, four major cases are examined in detail. The author of many books on the paranormal, Mr. Rogo is a cautious observer, attempting to find a logical explanation for the upheavals and only accepting a paranormal theory when all other possibilities have been ruled out. The first case occurred in Los Angeles in October 1974, and is a perfect example of the above mentioned archetype, involving a 13 year old girl who was undergoing severe psychological stress. Despite some indications of deliberate fakery in order to stay home from school, there were disturbances that neither Rogo or coinvestigator Raymond Bayless could find a good explanation for.

The second case also happened in Los Angeles, in the newly developed community of Simi Valley, to be exact. The most dangerous of all types of manifestations - fire - was at work in the home of Mr. John Eaton, age 35, in March 1976. A 20 year-old friend of Eaton, named Fred was staying with him at the time of the outbreaks, and he appeared to be the focal point of the events, albeit on an unconscious level. One fire seemed to originate within the stuffing of a chair, spreading outwards. A further puzzling clue of possible significance, is that Fred is a very deep sleeper and difficult to arouse. In all, there were five fires, each quite intense, in a different room of the house.

In 1978, a unique electronic poltergeist was bedeviling a large plastics factory in Hollywood, California. One of the oddest characteristics about it was that it had an effect on the public address system and the telephone simultaneously - two entirely separate mechanical

systems. Rogo feels this case was definitely of a psycho-kinetic nature similar to the famous 1967 Rosenheim case in Bavaria where a 19 year old secretary was causing fuses to blow and all manner of electrical disturbances.

The fourth case is the most recent (December 1983) and also one of the most typical - a rock throwing spook in Tucson, Arizona. Mr. and Mrs. Berkbigler and their five children had just moved into their partially completed home when, every evening between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m., deluges of fist-sized rocks would pelt their home and van. The house was isolated - no neighbors - with plenty of sagebrush and cactus. Mrs. Berkbigler was inclined to think that perhaps they had built over an Indian burial ground and spirits were involved, but it soon became apparent that other factors were predominant.

Among these were the peculiar facts that the peltings would cease when the family went to sleep and no one was ever seriously injured by them, although the rocks were large and seemingly accurate in their trajectory. A clue finally emerged when one of the sons, David, age 15, disclosed that he often noticed foul odors when no cause was apparent, an indication of possible abnormal neuronal firing in the brain.

In the second half of the book, Mr. Rogo delves into other histories where variant factors occur, including one where apparently he himself was the agent of poltergeistic effects while having an O.O.B.E. (out-of-the-body-experience). This was in August 1977, and in effect, he was haunting his own house in Los Angeles while physically present in New York!

The thrust of this book is somewhat different from the Colin Wilson work, as Rogo is inclined to support the PK/O.O.B.E. hypothesis in the majority of cases, whereas Wilson supports the idea that deceased personalities may sometimes be able to create effects that resemble the traditional poltergeist. Mr. Rogo is honest to admit that every case is a mixed bag, and he offers a concluding chapter on how best to investigate, the ethical approach and how to conduct interviews. Two appendixes, dealing with Epilepsy and the Poltergeist and Instances of O.O.B.E. Poltergeists conclude the book and provide insights that are not commonly considered.

This is a valuable addition to the literature of the paranormal and has a nicely balanced approach between the strictly analytical and the on-the-spot casebook of the observer caught up in the action. Very good reporting by a cautious investigator.

Reviewed by: W. Ritchie Benedict, #12 - 401 Grier Ave. N.E., Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2K 3T8.

CLASSIFIED

The Common Sense Approach To Ghosts by Robert L. Gruzdis. An entertaining and informative guidebook about the world of ghosts and spirits for those who believe in them and those who don't. \$7.95 each "Ill. residents add 5% sales tax." Knowledge Unlimited, 1271 W. Dundee Rd., Suite 14A, Buffalo Grove, Il., 60089.

Free newsletter and list of used books for sale. Occult, metaphysical, religious and related subjects. Send long (#10 legal size) SASE to: Antony Egan, Apt. 17F, 612 E. 14th St., New York, NY., 10009.

BAKER STREET PUBLICATIONS offers a variety of fanzines and other publications such as The Vampire Journal, Haunted Journal and The Collinsport Record. For undated information and subscription rates contact: Baker Street Publications, c/o Sharida Rizzuto, PO Box 994, Metairie, La. 70004.

AMERICAN FORUM - A reader written newsletter for the opinionated. Also new publication entitled GHOSTBUSTERS. Sample issue \$1.00 from: American Forum, Box 261, Staten Island, NY., 10302.

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Noted E.S.P. expert predictor and advisor, member of American Counselors Society, spiritual healing by God is also available, 3 questions \$25.00 or 5 for \$35.00. MILTON KRAMER, 22055 W. Nielson Drive, Lake Villa, Il., 60046. Phone (312)356-0471.

MARFA MYSTERY LIGHT PHOTOGRAPHS available in full color with description of conditions and Texas inlay. 4x5's for \$6.00, 8x10's for \$11.00 each (larger formats available on request). Price includes first class postage, packaging and handling charges. James Crocker, 9552 Brewster, Dallas, Tx. 75227. (See cover for black and white photograph).

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